

**REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed March 5, 2008, in the nature of a requirement for restriction, has been carefully reviewed. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Restriction has been required among what the Examiner considers to be patentably distinct species of the invention, as follows:

Group I, drawn to a polypeptide having an RNase III activity and composition comprising said polypeptide, presently comprising claims 1-8 and 14;

Group II, drawn to a method for degrading a dsRNA, presently comprising claims 9-13;

Group III, drawn to a kit for degrading a dsRNA, presently comprising claim 15; and

Group IV, drawn to a nucleic acid that encodes a polypeptide having a RNase III activity, presently comprising claims 16 and 17.

Applicant hereby elects Group I, claims 1-8 and 14, drawn to a polypeptide having RNase III activity and compositions comprising said polypeptide.

If the election requirement is maintained, it will be clear on the record that the PTO considers the groups to be patentably distinct from one another *i.e., prima facie* non-obvious from one another. This means that a reference

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identical to the one group would not render the other group  
*prima facie* obvious.

Favorable consideration and examination of all  
pending claims on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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